



Pima County Fair Horseracing Commission Meeting
 January 17, 2018
 San Agustin Kitchen

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	
Chair Ramirez	Zulema Echerivel	Hector Pinedo
Ronnie Reyna	Jaye Wells	Ramon Basurto
Tim Kelly	Diane Frisch	JoAnn DiFilippo
John Ochoa	Scott Little	Victor Salazar
	Ramon Ochoa	Cynthia Megariz

1. **Call to Order** –Chair Ramirez called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.
2. **Approval of November 15, 2017 Minutes**- Commissioner Reyna motioned to accept minutes from November 15 meeting, Chair Ramirez seconded, minutes approved.
3. **Clarification and Changes to assigned Pima County Fair Horse Racing Dates**- The Rillito Foundation requested the fair horseracing date of March 18 to be changed to March 3 so entries in El Moro will only be required to have one workout. The PCFHRC, Pima County Board of Supervisors as well as the AZ Department of Racing (ADOR) must approve this change. Chair Ramirez motioned to approve the change, Commissioner Kelly seconded, motion passed. Chair Ramirez will send Attractions & Tourism Department an e-mail with the request to be scheduled at the February 6 Board of Supervisors meeting for approval, with final approval by ADOR at the Board meeting February 8.
4. **Farewell to Commissioner Echerivel**- the Commission thanked Commissioner Echerivel for her service. Commissioner Echerivel resigned in December and is being replaced by James Collins, appointed by District 1.
5. **Assignment of roles to current PCFHRC Commissioners**- Due to Chair Ramirez hectic schedule at the hospital Chair Ramirez asked a commission volunteer to assist as a liaison between the Commission, Pima County, Rillito Foundation and the Moro de Cumpas Committee. Commissioner Kelly volunteered to serve. Chair Ramirez filed the motion to approve Commissioner Kelly as the liaison and Commissioner Reyna seconded, motion approved. Commissioner Kelly will work with Attractions & Tourism to get the agenda and other documents in on time as well as assist with the racing season issues.
6. **Status of Rillito Barns**- there was discussion as to whether the barns will be ready for the 2018 racing season. The project was put out as an RFP by the County with no result, they also tried Job Order Contractors with no results. Mr. Wells stated the barns were not going to be ready and more than likely tents will have to be used this season as they did last year.

7. **Update from Rillito Racing**- Jaye Wells stated all the racing dates have been approved with the exception of the March 3rd change. They have received a tele-track license, which will allow live racing signal throughout the State.

Mr. Wells also stated the Budweiser Clydesdales are making two appearances this year. There will be a VIP function on February 28 for people to get an up-close and personal look at the horses. They will be on show for the public on Saturday and Sunday. Budweiser has also finalized their contract with Rillito Foundation they will be offering two free tickets with every 12-pack purchase at Bashas. There is not as much free media this year as in the past, but they did receive \$12,500 from Budweiser for promotions.

Mr. Wells introduced Scott Little as the Assistant General Manager to assist Mike Weiss this year. Mr. Little is a graduate of the U of A Racing Program and his past experience will be a great help to the Foundation.

There is a new class at the Eller College. Ed Ackerly is teaching a class to market Rillito Racetrack. He is the instructor for animal husbandry at the University of Arizona. Chair Ramirez stated this is a great program for the local track.

8. **El Moro de Cumpas Committee**- the Committee is active in producing the race. They will be working on sponsorships. As soon as they have the dates approved, they will be ready to go. The final will be on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, which is the date of the original Moro de Cumpas Race.
9. **New Business**- Jim Collins has been selected by District 1 to replace outgoing Commissioner Echerivel. The Commission gave her a farewell thank you gift.
10. **Call to the Public**- Mr. Basurto asked what identification was to be required by the equestrians to enter the track for workouts. Chair Ramirez stated to contact the track for that information.

Jaye Wells has asked Marcos Flores be replaced by Paul Bear as the liquor agent on site. Chair Ramirez has the paperwork to be submitted to the Department of Liquor for the change. Commissioner Reyna had questions as to Mr. Bear's qualifications. Mr. Wells stated Mr. Bear has an extensive amount of experience; he is the Manager of the Rialto Theatre, bar manager at Rancho de Osa, as well as having run several establishments in the past.

11. **Motion to Adjourn**- Chair Ramirez motioned to adjourn at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Kelly seconded. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting February 21. Commissioner Reyna will be looking for a new location for the February meeting and will contact Attractions & Tourism with the new venue.

